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**APPENDIX C**  
**MANAGEMENT AND SETTING PRESCRIPTIONS**  
**FOR LANDS MANAGED TO PROTECT WILDERNESS**  
**CHARACTERISTICS**

## **Colorado River Valley Field Office Management and Setting Prescriptions for Lands Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics**

Management activities would be guided by the principle of preserving wilderness characteristics. Cultural, paleontological, vegetation, geologic and terrestrial/aquatic wildlife resources are important supplemental values to an area's wilderness characteristics. The following prescriptions are intended to protect these values along with wilderness characteristics (i.e., naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation).

### **SURFACE DISTURBING ACTIVITIES**

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#### **Management Action and Allowable Use Decision.**

- Apply a no surface occupancy stipulation on use and occupancy of the land surface for fluid mineral exploration and development and other surface-disturbing activities.

### **VALID EXISTING RIGHTS**

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#### **Management Action and Allowable Use Decision.**

- New discretionary uses that create valid existing rights are not allowed if they would detract from the wilderness values. Specific exemptions/allowances are made for prior existing rights may continue.

### **FOREST AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

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#### **Management Action and Allowable Use Decision.**

- These lands are closed to commercial timber harvest, firewood cutting, and special forest product harvest.

#### ***Best Management Practices to Guide Implementation-level Management.***

- Vegetative manipulation to control insect and disease outbreaks or control invasive species is allowed when there is no effective alternative and when the control is necessary to protect wilderness characteristics and maintain supplemental values.
- Control/manipulation methods may include hand (e.g., tools or chain saws), chemical (e.g., spraying weeds), and biological treatment

provided it would not cause long term (5 years) adverse impacts (apparent evidence of human intervention on the landscape) to the wilderness characteristics.

## **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

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### **Management Action and Allowable Use Decisions.**

- Introduction of threatened, endangered, or other special status species native to North America may be allowed.
- Management activities on these lands would emphasize natural processes for wildlife management. Vegetative manipulation/habitat treatments to improve special status species habitat is allowed when there is no effective alternative and when the manipulation is necessary to maintain supplemental values.

#### ***Best Management Practices to Guide Implementation-level Management.***

- Wildlife resources would be managed to protect wilderness characteristics.
- Fishing, hunting, and trapping are allowable activities on these lands. The State of Colorado establishes regulations and enforcement for these uses. Nothing would be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State agencies with respect to fish and wildlife management on these lands.
- Stocking of wildlife and fish species native to the area is permitted.
- Vegetative manipulation/habitat treatments may include: hand (e.g., tools or chain saws), chemical (e.g., spraying weeds), and mechanical treatments (e.g., hydro-axe); provided it would not cause long-term adverse impacts to the existing condition of wilderness characteristics. When analyzing actions within these areas, short-term impacts to individual wilderness characteristics will be considered in relation to long-term benefits to protecting or enhancing other wilderness characteristics including supplemental values.

## **CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

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#### ***Best Management Practices to Guide Implementation-level Management.***

- Resource inventories, studies, and research involving surface examination may be permitted.
- Paleontological resource projects such as excavations would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. These evaluations would ensure any impact to wilderness characteristics are temporary and wilderness characteristics are protected over the long-term.

- Rehabilitation, stabilization, reconstruction, and restoration work on historic structures; excavations; and extensive surface collection may also be permitted if they protect the area's wilderness character.
- Permanent physical protection, such as fences, would be limited to those measures needed to protect resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and would be constructed so as to minimize impacts on naturalness.

## **VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

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### **Management Action and Allowable Use Decision.**

- Manage areas under VRM Class II objectives unless otherwise managed as VRM Class I.

## **WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT**

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### ***Best Management Practices to Guide Implementation-level Management.***

- Fire suppression and management would use minimal impact suppression tactics where feasible. Wildland fire suppression and management objectives would recognize protecting wilderness characteristics.
- Reduce the negative effects of wildland fire suppression by applying minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST).
- Placement of large fire camps would be outside of these areas.
- Perform rehabilitation of fire suppression impacts and emergency stabilization/restoration (ESR) as defined by the resource advisor to restore visual and wilderness characteristics.
- The use of natural firebreaks and roads to contain a wildland fire is encouraged.

## **LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT**

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### ***Best Management Practices to Guide Implementation-level Management.***

- Within areas managed to protect wilderness characteristics, existing livestock grazing and the activities and facilities that support a grazing program are permitted to continue.
- Adjustments in the numbers and kind of livestock permitted to graze would be made as a result of land health assessments and grazing compliance.
- The construction of new grazing facilities would be permitted if they are primarily for the purpose of protecting wilderness characteristics and more

effective management of resources, rather than to accommodate increased numbers of livestock.

- The use of motorized equipment for emergency purposes is allowed for livestock management.

## **RECREATION AND VISITOR SERVICES MANAGEMENT**

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### **Management Action and Allowable Use Decisions.**

- Permanent recreation structures are not permitted.
- No new special recreation permits would be authorized unless they are necessary for helping people realize the primitive and unconfined recreational values (e.g., upland outfitting service).
- When commercial special recreation permits (SRP) are renewed, the terms and conditions of the SRP would be modified as necessary to comply with the *Management and Setting Prescriptions for Lands Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics*.
- No competitive events would be authorized.

### ***Best Management Practices to Guide Implementation-level Management.***

- Primitive and unconfined recreational activities such as hiking, camping, rock climbing, caving, fishing, hunting, trapping etc., are emphasized on these lands.
- Recreational or hobby collecting of mineral specimens when conducted without location of a mining claim may be allowed. This use would be limited to hand collection and detection equipment.

## **COMPREHENSIVE TRAILS AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT**

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### **Management Action and Allowable Use Decisions.**

- The construction of new permanent or temporary roads would not be allowed.
- All lands are closed to over-snow travel.
- Motorized access is granted for BLM administrative use.

### **Implementation Decisions.**

- The construction of new permanent or temporary roads would not be allowed in lands managed to protect wilderness characteristics.
- As identified in the travel designations, within the Thompson Creek unit; 1) routes 8271 and 8276 (Lorax Trail) would be designated as open to mechanized travel; 2) route 8275 (loop road) would be designated as open to motorized travel.

- As identified in the travel designations, within the Pisgah Mountain unit; routes 8520, 8535, 8535A, 8536, 8537 and 8537C (administrative route) would be designated as open to motorized travel.

***Best Management Practices to Guide Implementation-level Management.***

- BLM authorization to exercise valid and existing rights and for emergency and other purposes as authorized under 43 CFR 8340.0-5(a) (2), (3), (4) and (5).
- The use and the construction of temporary roads, structures, and installations are allowed for emergency purposes, but must be conducted to achieve the least disturbance and reclaimed as soon as possible.
- Unauthorized travel off designated routes would not be allowed.
- Motorized and mechanized routes would be minimized and restoration of unnecessary routes would be performed to enhance and protect wilderness characteristics.
- For all authorizations that allow off-route motorized/mechanized travel, specify the following: what type of use is allowed and for what purpose, times, dates or seasons of access; and where motorized/mechanized vehicle travel off designated routes is allowed.
- In areas with limited travel designations, motorized/mechanized travel is allowed up to 300 feet from designated motorized/mechanized routes for direct access to dispersed campsites provided that: 1) no resource damage occurs; 2) no new routes are created; and 3) such access is not otherwise prohibited by the BLM Field Manager.

**LAND AND REALTY MANAGEMENT (LAND DISPOSALS, RIGHTS OF WAYS (ROWS) AND  
USE AUTHORIZATIONS)**

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**Management Action and Allowable Use Decisions.**

- Lands with wilderness characteristics would be retained in public ownership. They would not be disposed through any means, including public sales, exchanges, patents under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, State selections or other actions (except where a vested right was established prior to October 21, 1976).
- Prior existing rights, such as leases under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, leases/permits under 43 CFR 2920, and rights-of-ways (ROWS) may be renewed.
- These lands would be designated as ROW avoidance areas. New authorizations, leases, or ROWs would not be authorized that are not compatible with the defined values.

***Best Management Practices to Guide Implementation-level Management.***

- The BLM would acquire State and private in-holdings when practicable. In unique situations and subject to public review, exchanges may be made

involving Federal and non-Federal lands when such action would significantly benefit that area's wilderness characteristics.

- Adequate access to in-holdings that are compatible with the defined values would be authorized.
- New administrative use authorizations would be granted on a case-by-case basis if it is: 1) compatible with the defined values, or 2) necessary to administer and protect the lands with wilderness character, and 3) necessary to protect the health and safety of persons within the area.

## **FLUID MINERALS MANAGEMENT (OIL AND GAS TAR SANDS AND GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES)**

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### **Management Action and Allowable Use Decision.**

- *Fluid Mineral Leasing.* Close unleased federal mineral estate to oil and gas leasing and geophysical development.

## **LOCATABLE MINERALS, MINERAL MATERIALS, & NON-ENERGY LEASABLE MINERALS MANAGEMENT**

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### **Management Action and Allowable Use Decisions.**

- Recommend for withdrawal to the Secretary of the Interior to close these lands to mining laws for locatable exploration or development.
- *Non-energy Solid Mineral Leasing.* All federal mineral estate within these lands would be closed to non-energy solid mineral leasing.
- *Salable Minerals/Mineral Material Disposal.* These areas are closed to salable minerals/mineral material disposal (such as moss rock, top soil, sand and gravel, scoria, fill dirt).

### **Implementation Decisions.**

- Within areas managed to protect wilderness characteristics, existing mining operations would be regulated using the 43 CFR 3809 regulations to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation of the lands.
- Within areas managed to protect wilderness characteristics, existing mineral leases represent a valid existing right. These rights are dependent upon the specific terms and conditions of each lease. Existing leases would be regulated through conditions of approval to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation.